



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 27, 2011

S. 1067 **Nuclear Energy Research Initiative Improvement Act of 2011**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on July 14, 2011*

SUMMARY

S. 1067 would authorize the Department of Energy (DOE) to conduct research related to nuclear reactor systems. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1067 would cost \$231 million over the 2012-2016 period. Enacting S. 1067 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 1067 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1067 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 270 (energy).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012-2016
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	50	51	52	52	53	258
Estimated Outlays	30	45	51	52	53	231

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 1067 would authorize DOE to conduct research aimed at reducing the costs of deploying new commercial nuclear reactors and increasing levels of safety and security of such systems. Under the bill, those efforts would be aimed particularly at developing modular and small-scale nuclear reactors and technologies to enhance the sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and security of nuclear reactors.

Based on information from DOE about the level of effort required to make appreciable progress toward those objectives, CBO estimates that fully funding S. 1057 would require appropriations totalling \$50 million in 2012 and \$258 million over the 2012-2016 period. Assuming appropriation of those amounts, CBO estimates that resulting spending would total \$231 million over the 2012-2016 period, with additional spending occurring in later years. Those estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for DOE's nuclear programs.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1067 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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